LISTING OF CLAIMS

Claims 17-37 (Cancelled).

Claim 38 (New): A method of preparing a voltage reversal tolerant fuel cell anode structure comprising a gas diffusion layer, the method comprising:

(a) applying to said gas diffusion layer a first carbon component comprising a sacrificial carbon component having substantially no resistance to corrosion during cell reversal at fuel cell operating temperatures and said first carbon material having a BET surface area of at least 350 m^2g^{-1},

(b) applying to said gas diffusion layer a second carbon component, said second carbon component supporting an electrocatalyst material, said second carbon component having substantially more resistance to corrosion during cell reversal at fuel cell operating temperatures than said first carbon component.

Claim 39 (New): The method of claim 38 wherein said first carbon component and said second carbon components are mixed before applying to said gas diffusion layer.

Claim 40 (New): An improved method of imparting voltage reversal tolerance to a fuel cell anode structure comprising a gas diffusion layer, said gas diffusion layer having an electrocatalytic material disposed on a carbon support applied thereto, the improvement comprising:

applying to said gas diffusion layer a sacrificial carbon component having substantially no resistance to corrosion during cell reversal at fuel cell operating temperatures and having a BET surface area of at least 350 m^2g^{-1}.

Claim 41 (New): A method of preparing a voltage reversal tolerant fuel cell anode structure comprising a gas diffusion layer, the method comprising:

(a) incorporating into said gas diffusion layer a first carbon component comprising a sacrificial carbon component having substantially no resistance to corrosion during cell reversal at fuel cell operating temperatures and said first carbon material having a BET surface area of at least 350 m^2g^{-1},

(b) incorporating into said gas diffusion layer a second carbon component, said second carbon component supporting an electrocatalyst material, said second carbon component having substantially more resistance to corrosion during cell reversal at fuel cell operating temperatures than said first carbon component.

Claim 42 (New): The method of claim 41 wherein said first carbon component and said second carbon components are mixed before incorporation into said gas diffusion layer.

Claim 43 (New): An improved method of imparting voltage reversal tolerance to a fuel cell anode structure comprising a gas diffusion layer, said gas diffusion layer comprising an electrocatalytic material disposed on a carbon support, the improvement comprising:

incorporating into said gas diffusion layer a sacrificial carbon component having substantially no resistance to corrosion during cell reversal at fuel cell operating temperatures and having a BET surface area of at least 350 m^2g^{-1}.